

City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager

Peter Dunn
Chief Development Officer
Executive Office of Economic Development



Gregory J. Baker
Director
Neighborhood Development Division

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

03/08/2022

Virtual Meeting*

Worcester, MA

6:00pm

*Due to on-going state and local policies, protocols, and pre-cautionary measures related to the COVID-19, this meeting was conducted virtually/remotely, using the Webex on-line computer meeting platform to allow participation by computer or by phone.

DRAFT - MEETING MINUTES

CDAC present: Lizbeth Perez Rodriguez (chair), Pamela Stolz (Vice Chair), Doug Arbetter, Suzanne Graham, Bryan Milward, Michael Murphy, Taylor Neil

CDAC absent: none

City Staff: Greg Baker, Jared Sas

Meeting was video recorded and is available at the following link:

<https://play.champds.com/worcesterma/event/1197>

1) Call to Order

Chairperson Lizbeth Perez Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. The following items had been e-mailed to each CDAC member prior to the start of the meeting:

- Agenda
- Minutes from 3/1/2022

2) Review and Approval of 3/1/2022 meeting minutes (vote needed)

A motion was seconded and passed to vote approval of the 3/1/2022 minutes. CDAC voted by rollcall 7-0 for their approval.

3) Discussion of all Yr. 48 RFPs for Public Facility Renovations from master binder table of contents as follows: (#22) African Community Education- Gage

Executive Office of Economic Development
Neighborhood Development Division
Worcester City Hall, 455 Main Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01608
Telephone: (508) 799-1400 Fax: (508) 799-1406
Website: www.worcesterma.gov/development



Street Gym Renovation to Preservation Worcester (#24)- Salisbury House Historic Preservation

The following Yr. 48 RFPs for Public Facility Renovation projects were reviewed and discussed:

African Community Education Program – Gage Street Gym Renovation

Dismas House – HVAC Replacement

Preservation Worcester – Salisbury House Historic Preservation

The city staff indicated that they would examine the potential use of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) to see if they might be a better option for some of the proposed public facility renovations projects, particularly the Preservation Worcester one.

4) Discussion of all Yr. 48 RFPs for City of Worcester Interdepartmental from master binder table of contents as follows: (#25) Neighborhood Development Fund to (#28) Business & Community Development Division- Microloan, Façade & Small Business Grants Programs

The following Yr. 48 RFPs for City of Worcester Interdepartmental projects were reviewed and discussed:

Neighborhood Development Division – Neighborhood Development Fund (road resurfacing, sidewalk re-construction, streetscape improvements)

Inspectional Services Department – Systematic Housing Inspection

Inspectional Services Department – Demolition of Spot Slum and Blight

Business & Community Development Division – Microloan, Façade & Small Business Grants Programs

As was iterated last year, CDAC members expressed concerns that measures be taken to address increased housing costs resulting from the gentrification of the Green Island area as a result of development around the Polar Park baseball stadium.

In response to a question, Greg Baker provided some explanation of the process whereby the Inspectional Services Department works with owners of dilapidated housing to minimize situations, which could lead to demolition of said structures. He also agreed to follow up on a question regarding the city's protocol to address the issue of "excessive hoarding" by some households.

5) Discussion of draft content for letter to the City Manager

CDAC members agreed to put off discussion of the content for the letter to the City Manager until their next meeting (now scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 22,

2022). This would allow members more time to review and score all the RFPs, which in turn would better inform the discussion of draft content for the letter.

6) Adjournment

As there were no more items, a motion was seconded and passed to vote to adjourn the meeting. CDAC voted by rollcall 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm.